



News Release from Congressman

ROB SIMMONS

SECOND DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THURSDAY, JUNE 01, 2006

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SIMMONS REQUESTS MEETING WITH HEAD OF HOMELAND SECURITY DEPARTMENT

Calls Decision To Cut Connecticut Homeland Funding "absolutely unconscionable and irresponsible"

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, today sent the following letter to Mr. Michael Chertoff, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). DHS yesterday announced a cut in Connecticut's Urban Area Security Initiative funding.

June 1, 2006

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

I am writing to request a meeting with you to discuss the distribution of Homeland Security Grant Program allocations.

The Department of Homeland Security's recent decision to cut funding to Connecticut by more than one-third is absolutely unconscionable and irresponsible. The state of Connecticut's military, energy, chemical and education infrastructure and close proximity to New York City and Boston create significant risks and potential terrorist targets.

My district alone is home to nuclear submarine base Groton/New London, the submarine production company Electric Boat, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, two functioning nuclear power plants, two decommissioned nuclear power plants with fuel storage pools, two of the largest casinos in the world, the Coast Guard Academy, and transportation facilities such as Amtrak, I-95, and the Port of New London. Any one of these and dozens of other sites state-wide could be possible terrorist targets.

The decision of DHS to cut these funds from Connecticut raises serious questions about the formulas used to calculate the grant allocations and the individuals managing the department. As a member of both the House Homeland Security Committee and the Connecticut congressional delegation, I request an immediate meeting with you to discuss this issue.

I look forward to your response.

All the best,

Rob Simmons
Member of Congress
Second District, Connecticut

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